



United States Currency Milestones: 1996-Present

Currency Redesign 1996

In the first significant design change in 67 years, U.S. paper money was redesigned to incorporate a series of new counterfeit deterrent features. The new bills were issued beginning with the \$100 note in 1996, followed by the \$50 note in 1997, the \$20 note in 1998, and the \$10 and \$5 notes in 2000.

The Redesigned \$20 Note 2003



In 2003, the second round of redesigns began when the United States government introduced the redesigned \$20 note. The \$20 note was issued on October 9, 2003, and has the following primary security features:

1. **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the left of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA TWENTY* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows green when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
2. **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is to the right of the portrait, part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note.
3. **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 20 in the lower right corner on the front of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.

The Redesigned \$50 Note 2004



The redesigned \$50 note was issued on September 28, 2004, and has three key security features:

1. **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA 50* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows yellow when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
2. **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is to the right of the portrait, part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note.
3. **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 50 in the lower right corner on the front of the note. When you tilt the note up and

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down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.

The Redesigned \$10 Note 2006



The redesigned \$10 note was issued on March 2, 2006, and includes three easy-to-use security features:

1. **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA 10* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows orange when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
2. **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note. On the redesigned \$10 note, a blank oval has been incorporated into the design to highlight the watermark's location to the right of the portrait.
3. **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 10 in the lower right corner on the face of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.

The Redesigned \$5 Note 2008



The redesigned \$5 note was issued on March 13, 2008. Enhanced security features make it easier to check the redesigned \$5 note and more difficult for potential counterfeiters to reproduce:

1. **Watermarks:** There are now two watermarks on the redesigned \$5 note:
2. Hold the note to light and look for a large numeral 5 watermark located to the right of the portrait replacing the previous watermark portrait of President Lincoln found on the older design \$5 notes.
3. A second watermark – a column of three smaller 5s – has been added to the redesigned \$5 note design and is positioned to the left of the portrait.
4. **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the embedded security thread that runs vertically and is now located to the right of the portrait on the redesigned \$5 note. The letters *USA* followed by the numeral 5 in an alternating pattern are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. The thread glows blue when illuminated by ultraviolet light.

The New \$100 Note

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